

Section 3663 contemplates an ongoing responsibility of the Commission to analyze international mail costs and revenues. It therefore may be appropriate to establish permanent rules concerning data that the Postal Service should provide to enable the Commission to carry out this responsibility. However, it appears that initiating traditional procedures leading to the adoption of permanent data reporting rules would not be useful at this time, given the short period that remains for obtaining the data on which the initial study will be based.

Establishing permanent data reporting rules will involve a 5 U.S.C. 553 rulemaking of the type UPS suggests, but a rulemaking ordinarily requires more time than is available to obtain data for the initial report. The Commission must decide what data are necessary in advance of that deadline, and a rulemaking could delay identifying the information needed to prepare a report by July 1. Therefore, the Commission will defer establishing the rulemaking docket requested by UPS, although the Commission expects to initiate such an inquiry shortly after the July 1, 1999 report is completed.

*Request for comments on data and other issues related to the annual report.* Despite the short time remaining for identifying data necessary for preparing the first report, input from interested parties would be helpful, since the required report covers ground that is largely new to the Commission. Therefore, the Commission requests written comments on this topic on or before January 29, 1999, and reply comments on or before February 5, 1999. To facilitate replies, all comments will be made available on the Commission's website ([www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov)) as well as in the Commission's docket room.

To help interested parties focus their comments, the Commission invites them to identify the international mail products or services they believe should be analyzed in the report and to discuss their reasons for proposing the inclusion of these products. In that regard, an examination of relevant documents, including the International Mail Manual, USPS Publication 51, and the recent Government Accounting Office (GAO) report on new postal products (GAO/GGD-99-15), suggests that it might be appropriate for the report to consist of an analysis of the international products or services listed below. (This list appears as an attachment to order no. 1226.) Interested persons may wish to comment on whether this list is complete and

whether the level of disaggregation is appropriate.

*Identification of candidate international mail products and services for purposes of 39 U.S.C. 3663.* The list of candidate products and services includes: A. Inbound mail: letter and cards/AO; express; and parcels. B. Outbound mail: letters and cards (letters and letter packages; post cards and postal cards; and aerograms); other articles: printed matter, including small packets and matter for the blind (air and surface); M-bags (air and surface); parcel post (air and surface); express mail international service (EMS); international priority airmail (IPA); international surface airlift (ISAL); Valuepost/Canada; bulk letter service to Canada; global priority mail; global package link; global parcel services; direct entry; international customized mail (ICM); and international special services. C. Transit mail.

*Supporting data; request for comments.* The Postal Service annually compiles an International Cost and Revenue Analysis (ICRA) containing data on international mail services generally comparable to those presented in the CRA for domestic mail. The Commission believes the data in the ICRA are necessary to support the required report. Additionally, supporting data on international mail services comparable to those provided in the cost segments and components (CSC) report for domestic mail will be necessary to support the report. The Commission invites parties to identify any additional data that they believe are likely to be helpful or necessary. Questions of commercial sensitivity should not be an obstacle to submission of data for the Commission's analysis, since the Commission has procedures that allow it to maintain and analyze *in camera* data found to be commercially sensitive.

Finally, the Commission invites comments on any other issues that interested parties consider relevant to the Commission's duty to analyze and report on international mail costs, volumes, and revenues under 39 U.S.C. 3663.

Dated: January 21, 1999.

**Margaret P. Crenshaw,**  
Secretary.

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## POSTAL SERVICE

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**TIMES AND DATES:** 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 1, 1999; 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 2, 1999.

**PLACE:** Naples, Florida, at the Registry Hotel, 475 Seagate Drive, in the Laliqne I Room.

**STATUS:** February 1 (Closed); February 2 (Open).

#### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

*Monday, February 1—10:00 a.m. (Closed)*

1. Consideration of Delivery Confirmation Implementation Date.
2. Preliminary Annual Performance Plan Targets.
3. International Rates.
4. Strategic Alliance.
5. Office of the Inspector General FY 1999 Performance Plan.

*Tuesday, February 2—8:30 a.m. (Open)*

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, January 4-5, 1999.
  2. Remarks of the Postmaster General/Chief Executive Officer.
  3. Appointment of Members to Board Committees.
- Tuesday, February 2—8:30 a.m. (Open) [Continued]*

4. Preliminary Annual Performance Plan.
5. Fiscal Year 1998 Comprehensive Statement on Postal Operations.
6. Quarterly Report on Service Performance.
7. Quarterly Report on Financial Results.
8. Capital Investments.
  - a. Small Parcel and Bundle Sorter (SPBS) Feed System.
  - b. 2,000 Trailers—Additional Funding Request.
9. Report on the Southeast Area and Suncoast Performance Cluster.
10. Tentative Agenda for the March 1-2, 1999, meeting in Washington, D.C.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Thomas J. Koerber, Secretary of the Board, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20260-1000. Telephone (202) 268-4800.

**Thomas J. Koerber,**  
Secretary.

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